

16 February 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

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FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Iran

1. I most appreciate your note of 9 February and its stimulating analysis of Islamic resurgence. I am sorry if my Director's Note was in any way misleading with regard to my accusation that others in the government, in the press, and in academia did not forecast events in Iran. I meant that they did not do so in any public way. (My wording on the television show "Issues and Answers" was more precise in this regard.) I have heard of a professor at Harvard who had serious misgivings last August. I am sure there are many others. I don't know of any who took pen to paper and wrote their prognostications, and certainly the members of the press did not either.

2. With respect to your comment that I overstated the case with regard to the Shah's monarchy having effectively controlled unrest for over 50 years, you are certainly correct, though over the stretch of the half century he could have been considered to have been in control.

3. One point which interested me was your citing Ataturk as an ignitor of renewed Islamic awareness in modern times. It has not been my impression that Ataturk did much to revive or place emphasis on religion during his period. I thought, in fact, that there was considerable difficulty between him and the church as he pushed his modernization and westernization of Turkey.

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4. Still, your basic point is very valid. The issue is how we portray this force of Islam in a way that will help us [redacted] understand its power and its limits and what courses of action may best help us adapt to it. I'll try and will always appreciate any specific suggestions you have. Thanks again.



STANSFIELD TURNER